



- 1. Strengths of Acids and Bases
- 2. Relative Strengths of Brønsted-Lowry Acids and Bases
- 3.  $K_a$ ,  $K_b$
- 4. Ionization of Water

Strengths of Acids and Bases

**Demo:** Consider two acid solutions – hydrochloric acid, HCl and acetic acid, CH<sub>3</sub>COOH.

<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">strong acid</p> $\text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{H}^+ + \text{Cl}^-$ <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">1.0M      1.0M      1.0M</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">weak acid</p> $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH} \rightleftharpoons \text{H}^+ + \text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$ <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">1.0M      &lt;1.0M      &lt;1.0M</p>
<p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">- more ions - better ability to conduct electricity</p> 	 <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">strong</p> <p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">[SA] = [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] ex. [HCl] = [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>]</p>

In order for a solution to conduct electricity, ions must be present.

A **strong acid (or base)** is a substance that completely ionizes in aqueous solution. →

A **weak acid (or bases)** is a substance that partially ionizes in aqueous solution. ⇌

HCl is a **strong** acid.



- The reaction goes to completion – therefore, → is used.
- Other strong acids: HClO<sub>4</sub>, HI, HBr, HNO<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>.
- Strong bases include: NaOH, KOH, Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub>, and Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>

CH<sub>3</sub>COOH is a **weak** acid.

- The reaction does not go to completion – therefore ⇌ is used.
- There are many weak acids and bases.

pg. 6 of data booklet ↑  
not listed ↓

spectator ion = ions formed from strong acids

Classify the following as a strong acid (SA), weak acid (WA), strong base (SB), weak base (WB) or a spectator ion (S).

HClO <sub>4</sub>	SA	HCOOH	WA	NH <sub>3</sub>	WB	CN <sup>-</sup>	WB
Mg(OH) <sub>2</sub>	SB	HNO <sub>2</sub>	WA	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	S	HNO <sub>3</sub>	SA
HPO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	WA/WB	F <sup>-</sup>	WB	Br <sup>-</sup>	S	Cl <sup>-</sup>	S
NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup>	WA	SO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	WB	HSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	WA	LiOH	SB

### Relative Strengths of Brønsted-Lowry Acids and Bases

The higher the K<sub>a</sub> or K<sub>b</sub> value, the higher [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] or [OH<sup>-</sup>] respectively.

Acids are listed on the left of the table and their conjugate bases are listed on the right.

#### Example.

A student tests the electrical conductivity of 0.5 M solutions of the following: carbonic acid, methanoic acid, phenol acid and boric acid. Rank these solutions in order from most conductive to least conductive.

Most conductive

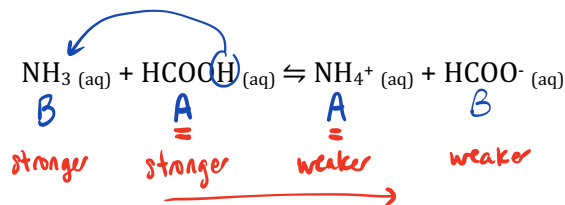
Least conductive

Methanoic > carbonic > boric > phenol

- stronger acid  
- higher K<sub>a</sub> value

When a BL-acid and base react, the position of the equilibrium is determined by their relative strengths.

#### Example:



- equilibrium favours products

$$- K_{eq} = \frac{P}{R}$$

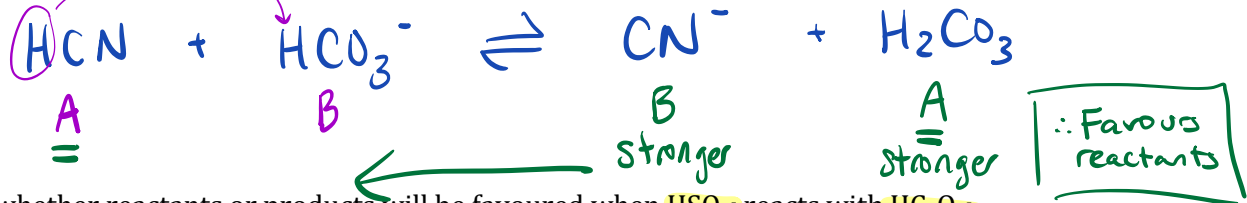
$$K_{eq} > 1$$

- ✓ Label the respective acids and bases in the above equation.
- ✓ According to the BL-acid/base strength table:
  - Determine which of the two acids is weaker or stronger.
  - Determine which of the two bases is weaker or stronger.

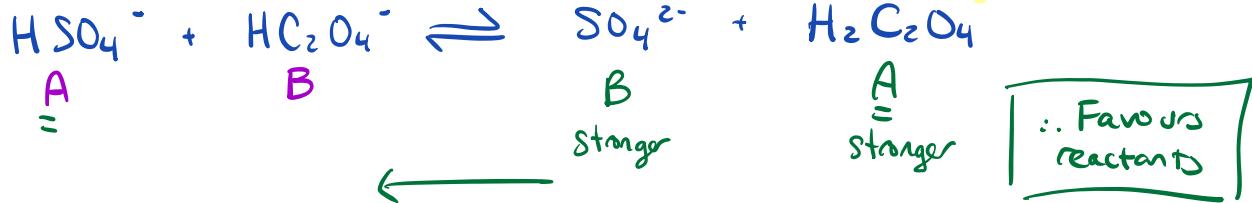
★ **The equilibrium favours the direction in which the stronger acid and base react to form the weaker conjugate acid and base.** ★

**Practice:**

1. Predict whether reactants or products will be favoured when **HCN** reacts with **HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>**.
- What is the reaction? Identify the weaker/stronger acid, weaker/stronger base.



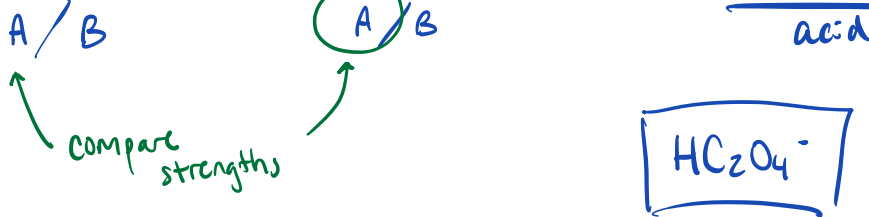
2. Predict whether reactants or products will be favoured when **HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>** reacts with **HC<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>**.



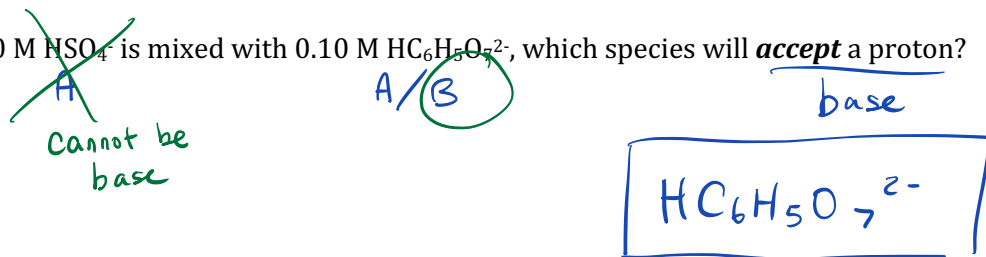
- a. Will the  $K_{eq}$  value be greater or less than 1?

$$K_{eq} = \frac{P}{R} \quad K_{eq} < 1$$

3. If 0.10 M HSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is mixed with 0.10 M HC<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>, which species will **donate** a proton?

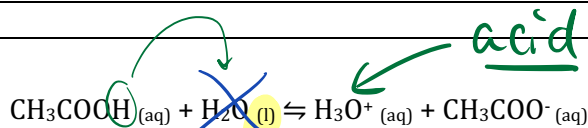


4. If 0.10 M ~~HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup>~~ is mixed with 0.10 M HC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>2-</sup>, which species will **accept** a proton?



**Strengths of Acids & Bases Worksheet**

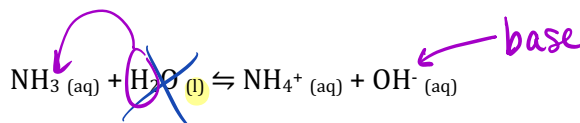
**Hebden Workbook Pg. 125 # 21-24, Pg 133 # 38 - 46**



In the acetic acid example above, because the reaction reaches an equilibrium, a K<sub>eq</sub> expression can be written. This specific expression is called **the K<sub>a</sub> expression** and K<sub>a</sub> is called the **acid ionization constant**.

$$K_{eq} = K_a = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-]}{[\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}]} = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$$

Similarly for weak bases,



The K<sub>b</sub> expression is:

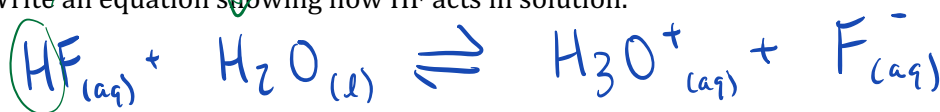
$$K_{eq} = K_b = \frac{[\text{NH}_4^+][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{NH}_3]} = \text{need to calculate}$$

K<sub>b</sub> is called the base ionization constant.

**Practice:**

1. HF is a weak acid.

a. Write an equation showing how HF acts in solution.



b. Write the K<sub>a</sub> expression for HF.

$$K_a = \frac{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{F}^-]}{[\text{HF}]} = 3.5 \times 10^{-4}$$

*data booklet*

2. The hydrogen oxalate ion is amphiprotic.

a. Write an equation showing how this ion acts as an acid in solution. Write a K<sub>a</sub> expression.



$$K_a = \frac{[\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}][\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]}{[\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-]}$$

b. Write an equation showing how this ion acts as a base in solution. Write a K<sub>b</sub> expression.

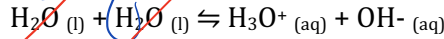


$$K_b = \frac{[\text{H}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4][\text{OH}^-]}{[\text{HC}_2\text{O}_4^-]}$$

## Ionization of Water

Water is amphiprotic so it can donate and accept a proton ion.

- One water can donate a proton to another water molecule – this is called **autoionization**.



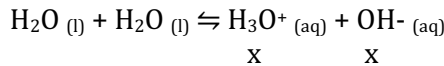
What would be the equilibrium constant expression?

$$K_{eq} = K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

The equilibrium constant expression for the autoionization of water is called  $K_w$ , or the **water ionization constant** or **ion product constant**.

At equilibrium,  $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$

(neutral)



$$K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

$$(x)(x) = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

$$x = 1.0 \times 10^{-7} = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$$

Both  $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  and  $\text{OH}^-$  exist in all aqueous solution.

- If  $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] < [\text{OH}^-]$ , the solution is basic.
- If  $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] = [\text{OH}^-]$ , the solution is neutral.
- If  $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] > [\text{OH}^-]$ , the solution is acidic.

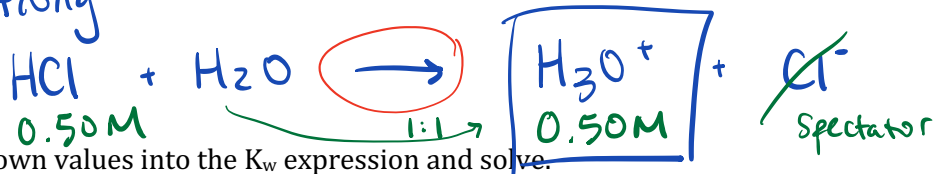
$$[\text{SA}] = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$$

**Example:**

What is the  $[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]$  and  $[\text{OH}^-]$  in **0.50M HCl**? Is this solution acidic or basic?

- Is HCl a strong or weak acid?

- strong



- Substitute known values into the  $K_w$  expression and solve.

$$K_w = [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+][\text{OH}^-] = 1.0 \times 10^{-14}$$

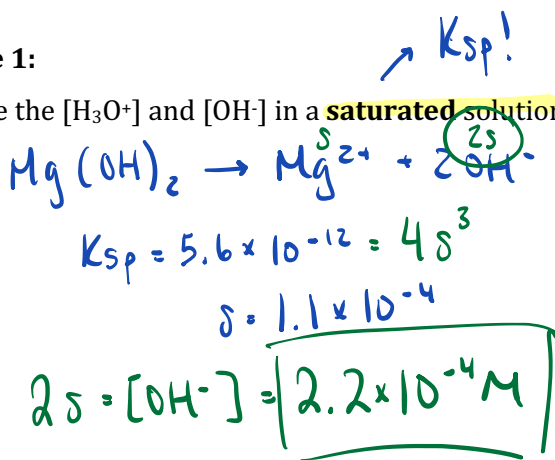
$$[\text{OH}^-] = \frac{K_w}{[\text{H}_3\text{O}^+]} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{0.50}$$

$$= \boxed{2.0 \times 10^{-14} M}$$

$\therefore [\text{H}_3\text{O}^+] > [\text{OH}^-]$   
Solution is acidic

**Practice 1:**

Calculate the  $[H_3O^+]$  and  $[OH^-]$  in a saturated solution of magnesium hydroxide. Is this solution acidic or basic?



$$K_w = [H_3O^+][OH^-]$$

$$[H_3O^+] = \frac{K_w}{[OH^-]}$$

$$= \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{2.2 \times 10^{-4}}$$

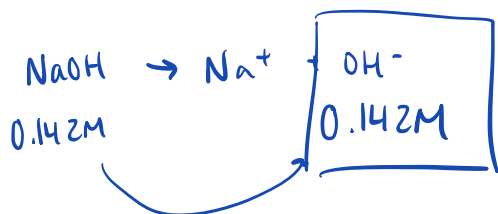
$$= \boxed{4.5 \times 10^{-11} M}$$

$[OH^-] > [H_3O^+]$   
solution is **basic**

**Practice 2:**

A student dissolved 1.42g of NaOH in 250. mL of solution. Calculate the resulting  $[H_3O^+]$  and  $[OH^-]$ . Is this solution acidic or basic?

$$[NaOH] = \frac{1.42g}{0.250L} \times \frac{1mol}{40.0g} = 0.142M$$



$$[H_3O^+] = \frac{K_w}{[OH^-]}$$

$$= \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{0.142}$$

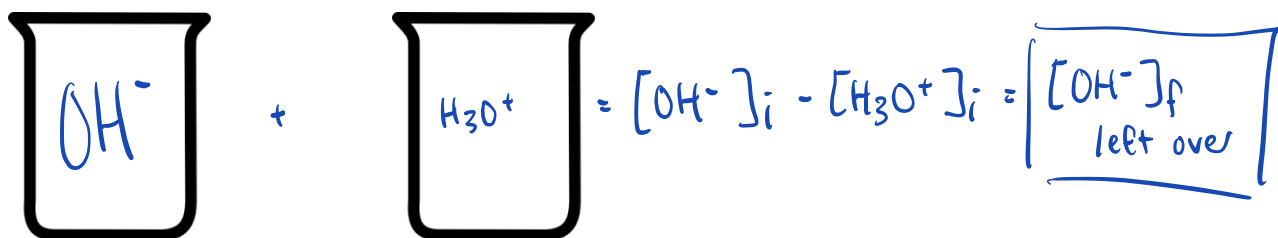
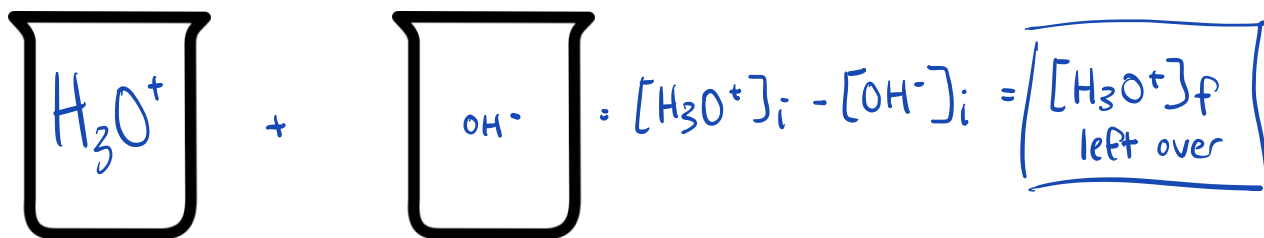
$$= \boxed{7.0 \times 10^{-14} M}$$

$[OH^-] > [H_3O^+]$   
∴ solution is **basic**

**$[H_3O^+]$  and  $[OH^-]$  when 2 solutions are MIXED:**

When two solutions are mixed:

- The solutions dilute each other. ( $c_1V_1 = c_2V_2$ )
- The acid and base neutralize each other. ↖ new!



**Practice 1:**

doesn't necessarily mean acidic solution!

What is the final  $[H_3O^+]$  in a solution formed when 25 mL of 0.30 M HCl is added to 35 mL of 0.50 M NaOH?

- When two solutions are combined, both are diluted. Calculate the new concentrations of HCl and NaOH in the mixed solution.

Step 1  
Dilution

[HCl]

$$C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$$

$$C_2 = \frac{(0.30)(25)}{(60)} = 0.125M = [H_3O^+]$$

[SA] =  $[H_3O^+]$

[NaOH]

$$C_1V_1 = C_2V_2$$

$$C_2 = \frac{(0.50)(35)}{(60)} = 0.292M = [OH^-]$$

- The hydronium ions and hydroxide ions will neutralize each other.
- Since there is more  $OH^-$ , there will be  $OH^-$  left over. Calculate how much will be left over.

Step 2  
Neutralization

$$[OH^-]_f = [OH^-]_i - [H_3O^+]_i$$

$$= 0.292M - 0.125M$$

$$= 0.167M = \boxed{0.17M}$$

- Use  $K_w$  to calculate the hydronium ion concentrations from the hydroxide ion concentration.

$$[H_3O^+] = \frac{K_w}{[OH^-]} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{0.167M} = \boxed{6.0 \times 10^{-14}M}$$

**Practice 2:**

Calculate the final  $[H_3O^+]$  and  $[OH^-]$  in a solution formed when 150. mL of 1.5 M  $HNO_3$  is added to 250. mL of 0.80 M KOH.

[HNO<sub>3</sub>]

$$C_2 = \frac{(1.5)(150)}{400}$$

$$= 0.5625M = [H_3O^+]$$

[KOH]

$$C_2 = \frac{(0.80)(250)}{400}$$

$$= 0.5000M = [OH^-]$$

$$[H_3O^+]_f = 0.5625 - 0.5000$$

$$= 0.0625M = \boxed{0.063M}$$

$$[OH^-] = \frac{K_w}{[H_3O^+]} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{0.0625} = \boxed{1.6 \times 10^{-13}M}$$

**Practice 3:**

Calculate the resulting  $[H_3O^+]$  and  $[OH^-]$  when 18.4 mL of 0.105 M HBr is added to 22.3 mL of 0.256 M HCl.

$$C_2 = \frac{[HBr](18.4)}{40.7}$$
$$= 0.047469M = [H_3O^+]$$

Both acids!

$$[H_3O^+]_f = [H_3O^+]_i + [H_3O^+]_i$$

add!

$$C_2 = \frac{[HCl](22.3)}{40.7}$$
$$= 0.140265M = [H_3O^+]$$

$$[H_3O^+]_f = 0.047469 + 0.140265$$
$$= 0.1877 = \boxed{0.188M}$$

$$[OH^-] = \frac{K_w}{[H_3O^+]} = \frac{1.0 \times 10^{-14}}{0.1877} = \boxed{5.3 \times 10^{-14}M}$$

**Practice 4:**

What mass of NaOH must be added to 500.0 mL of a solution of 0.020 M HI to obtain a solution with a final hydronium ion concentration of 0.0032 M?

$$\hookrightarrow [H_3O^+]_f$$

$$[H_3O^+]_f = [H_3O^+]_i - [OH^-]_i$$

$$0.0032 = 0.020 - [OH^-]_i$$

$$[OH^-]_i = 0.0168M$$

$$0.5000L \times \frac{0.0168mol}{1L} \times \frac{40.0g}{1mol} = 0.336 = \boxed{0.34g}$$